

REMARKS

Applicant thanks the Examiner for allowing claims 1-10, 12 and 27 and recognizing that claims 17 and 19-26 include allowable subject matter.

Claims 17 and 26 have been rewritten in independent form to include the features of claim 15 (now canceled).

Claim 25 has been amended to delete the reference to claim 15. The preamble to claim 25 has been amended to recite a "coin validator," as recited in the preambles of the claims from which claim 25 depends. That amendment is not intended to imply any distinction in this context between a coin validator and a coin acceptor.

Claims 13 and 18 were rejected as indefinite as a result of typographical errors. Those claims have been amended to correct the errors, which the applicant thanks the Examiner for noting.

Claims 11 and 15 have been canceled. Therefore, the rejections of those claims are moot.

Claim 13 was rejected as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,469,952 (Kershaw et al.). As discussed below, applicant respectfully disagrees.

Claim 13 recites a method of validating a coin which includes analyzing a signal produced by a collision of a coin with a surface and terminating the analysis if either a valid coin is found or a predetermined time has elapsed. Claim 13 has been amended to clarify that the method will terminate the analysis if either of the specified events occurs.

As illustrated, for example, in Fig. 3 of the pending application, the apparatus may include a hardware interrupt 116 to terminate the acquisition of a signal as soon as a valid coin is found (*see* page 6, lines 15-18 and page 10, lines 8-11). If, for example, the signal from the collision between the coin and the surface is analyzed concurrently with the signal being

Applicant : Katharine Louise King
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Page : 8 of 8

Attorney's Docket No.: 07703-397001 / WIN0249

produced, the analysis can be terminated as soon as the coin is determined to be valid. There is no need to continue analyzing the acquired signal(s).

The Kershaw et al. patent, on the other hand, merely discloses analyzing a signal produced by a collision of a coin with a surface for a predetermined time (col. 3, lines 19-21). There is no disclosure in Kershaw et al. of terminating the analysis when a valid coin is found. Instead, the entire sample is analyzed and a determination of coin acceptability made. Therefore, the Kershaw et al. patent does not disclose or suggest "terminating the analysis if a valid coin is found."

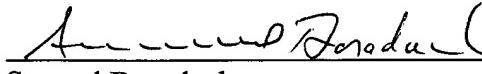
At least for the foregoing reasons, the rejection of claim 13 should be withdrawn.

A supplemental information disclosure statement is enclosed, along with a copy of EP 0 725 374, which apparently was not enclosed with the previously-filed information disclosure statement. Applicant requests that the Examiner indicate consideration of that reference by returning an initialed copy of the form 1449.

A check for the additional claim fees is enclosed. Please apply any other charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

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Samuel Borodach
Samuel Borodach
Reg. No. 38,388

Fish & Richardson P.C.
Citigroup Center
52nd Floor
153 East 53rd Street
New York, New York 10022-4611
Telephone: (212) 765-5070
Facsimile: (212) 258-2291